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IN PREPARATION FOR HURRICANE SEASON THE FCC REMINDS COMMUNICATIONS PROVIDERS THAT THE AGENCY CAN ASSIST THEM WITH THEIR EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

Washington, D.C. – As the 2010 hurricane season approaches and with Federal officials forecasting above average hurricane activity along the southeast coast of the United States this year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today reminds communications service providers of FCC emergency contact information and the need for their participation in the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS).

Communications service providers needing emergency special temporary authorizations (STAs) or seeking consultation with FCC Bureaus and Offices about their communications recovery efforts after hours or on weekends may contact the FCC's 24/7 Operations Center at 202-418-1122 or fccopcenter@fcc.gov. FCC contact information during regular business hours and more comprehensive details about the process for receiving STAs are available at: http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/services/sta.html.

We also urge all communications service providers to participate in DIRS, our voluntary, web-based system that allows wireless, wireline, broadcast, and cable providers to report communications infrastructure status and situational awareness information to the FCC during times of crisis.

By participating in DIRS, communications service providers can facilitate Federal efforts to assist in the restoration of essential services affected by the disaster. We urge all communications service providers that have previously registered in DIRS to ensure that their contact information is current and accurate. We also urge all communications providers that have not yet submitted their emergency contact information to please register in DIRS at the following URL: https://www.fcc.gov/nors/disaster/Login.cfm. The information provided will be secured by the FCC and protected from public disclosure.

Hurricane season annually runs from June 1st through November 30th.